

What is Claimed:

1. A comfort device for use with a mammography unit comprising:
an x-ray transparent compressible material adapted with a partially radiopaque identifier, wherein a portion of said identifier comprises indicia which impart information about said material onto a mammogram.
2. The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said information is imparted onto said mammogram in an area away from a breast image.
3. The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said information is a symbol or word or bargraph or combinations thereof which indicate physical properties or manufacturer or location or combinations thereof about said comfort device.
4. The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said indicia is imprinted on said comfort device.
5. The comfort device of claim 1 wherein a portion of said identifier is radiopaque, said portion comprising paper or metal or plastic or combinations thereof and said indicia are x-ray transparent.
6. The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said identifier is removably attached to said compressible material.
7. The comfort device of claim 1 configured to define a cavity for containing a cassette holder, wherein said material substantially conforms to patient-contact surfaces of said cassette holder and wherein said indicia imparts information onto a first area of said mammogram.
8. The comfort device of claim 7 further comprising a cassette holder opening.
9. The comfort device of claim 1 configured to define a cavity for containing a compression paddle, wherein said material substantially conforms to patient-contact surfaces of said compression paddle and wherein said indicia imparts information onto a second area of said mammogram.

10. The comfort device of claim 1 wherein said x-ray transparent compressible material comprises a first area comprising a first total linear attenuation value and a second area comprising a second total linear attenuation value.
11. A comfort device for use with a mammography unit, comprising an x-ray transparent compressible material and an identifying cover comprising x-ray transparent material adapted with a partially radiopaque identifier which imparts information onto a mammogram.
12. The comfort device of claim 11 wherein said identifying cover is disposable.
13. The comfort device of claim 11 wherein said compressible material is adapted with a first opening and said cover is adapted with a second opening, both openings adapted to permit a mammography unit cassette to pass therethrough.
14. A method for reducing patient discomfort during a mammogram and for imparting information onto a mammogram about a comfort device, comprising:
 - securing said comfort device, wherein said comfort device comprises an x-ray transparent compressible material adapted with a partially radiopaque identifier comprising indicia, to a mammography unit comprising patient-contact surfaces;
 - positioning a patient such that said comfort device is disposed between said patient and said patient-contact surfaces;
 - administering a mammogram; and
 - recording said indicia onto said mammogram.
15. The method of claim 14 comprising securing said comfort device to a cassette holder.
16. The method of claim 14 comprising securing said comfort device to a compression paddle.
17. The method of claim 14 wherein said indicia are recorded radiographically onto said mammogram.
18. A method for reducing patient discomfort during a mammogram and for imparting information onto a mammogram about a comfort device comprising:

securing said comfort device, wherein said comfort device comprises an x-ray transparent compressible material and an identifying cover, said cover comprising x-ray transparent material adapted with a partially radiopaque identifier comprising indicia, to a mammography unit comprising patient-contact surfaces;

securing said identifying cover to said mammography unit;

positioning a patient such that said comfort device is disposed between said patient and said patient-contact surfaces;

administering a mammogram; and

recording said indicia onto said mammogram.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising positioning said identifying cover underneath said x-ray transparent compressible material.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said identifying cover is disposable.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising positioning said identifying cover over said x-ray transparent compressible material.

22. A mammography unit comprising:

a compression paddle;

a cassette holder; and

a comfort device comprising an x-ray transparent compressible material adapted with a partially radiopaque identifier, wherein a portion of said identifier comprises indicia which impart information about said comfort device onto a mammogram.